



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **HONDURAN FUGITIVE ARRESTED BY ICE OFFICERS**

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — A Honduran national convicted of indecency with a child by contact was arrested here Thursday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

Santos Cornelio-Gonzales, 30, has been on the run and hiding from authorities since 2004. He was at his home in San Antonio where he's been living since he entered the United States through Laredo, Texas in 1998.

Local police arrested and charged Cornelio-Gonzales with indecency with a child by contact and assault. The Travis County District Attorney's office convicted him of the charges in 2000 and sentenced him to a one-year jail term. Under immigration law, as a convicted criminal alien he became eligible for deportation.

A federal immigration judge reviewed his case in February 2004 and found him ineligible for any form of relief from deportation. Cornelio-Gonzales appealed the judge's decision with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). The BIA reaffirmed the judge's final order in July. However, Cornelio-Gonzales chose to ignore the BIA's decision and remained in the United States.

"Ignoring a final order of removal is a violation of federal law," said Marc J. Moore, ICE San Antonio field office director for Detention and Removal Operations. "ICE immediately issues a warrant for arrest for anyone who receives final orders of removal. So fugitives beware; we will find you and we will deport you."

Cornelio-Gonzalez is being held at the South Texas Detention Center in Pearsall, Texas, pending his deportation to Honduras.

This arrest is part of a national ICE initiative to arrest and remove fugitives in hiding who have been ordered deported from the country. The National Fugitive Operation Program (NFOP) was established in February 2002, making the apprehending absconders a priority within the Department of Homeland Security. The NFOP's primary mission is to identify, locate, apprehend, process and remove fugitive aliens from the United States.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*